

taxpayers and the most dubious in their results. I did not say that. That is the letter sent by the Americans for Tax Reform group.

Taxpayer group after taxpayer group sends us letters urging us to revise and overhaul this long-overdue, complicated, foreign bureaucracy we have.

This is what we have, how complicated it is. Even Dr. Henry Kissinger says that the Agency for International Development is among the worst agencies he has ever seen. It is that bad.

By making common sense from this complicated bureaucratic system we have in controlling foreign aid, changing to this, under our new bill, from year to year, we can save \$1.8 billion.

That is why we support this bill today. I urge my colleagues to support this.

#### MEDICARE CUTS TO MISSOURI RURAL HOSPITALS PAY FOR TAX BREAKS FOR WEALTHY

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, it is flimflam time in the U.S. House of Representatives again. What do I mean by that? When we passed the budget, the Republican budget calls for huge cuts in Medicare in order to give tax breaks for the wealthy.

But when the Republican Members went back home, they said, "No, we're not making big cuts in Medicare. We're strengthening Medicare. We're improving Medicare."

Well, I went home and I talked to my hospital administrators, three of them, including one in my hometown. On Friday, I will be visiting three more rural hospitals.

What did they say? They did not say that Republican budget cuts in Medicare will improve Medicare, will strengthen Medicare. No. In my regional hospital at Hannibal, MO, by the year 2002, a loss of \$1.5 million a year in cuts—\$1.5 million jeopardizes my hospital.

What about Moberly Regional, \$1 million in lost revenue. Audrain County Medicare, \$1 million in lost revenue, jeopardizing rural hospital care with those Medicare cuts to give tax breaks for the wealthy.

#### WIDE GRASSROOTS SUPPORT CITED FOR PASSAGE OF AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, later today the House will resume work on H.R. 1561—the American Overseas Interests Act. It recognizes that the cold war is over by proposing the most important and comprehensive reform and reorganization of our foreign affairs activities in nearly 50 years.

Our legislation rolls up three independent cold war agencies and cuts spending by \$3 billion over 2 years. While the administration threatens to veto our bill, a broad array of grassroots organizations supports it, including citizens against Government Waste, the National Taxpayers Union Foundation, the Association of Concerned Taxpayers, and the Eagle Forum, to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1561 offers an opportunity to streamline and downsize the Federal Government and cut spending while continuing to project American influence and power around the world in a cost-effective manner.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the American Overseas Interests Act on final passage.

#### MEDICARE CUTS THREATEN HOSPITALS IN SMALL-TOWN AMERICA

(Mr. DURBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, if you have ever gotten into your car in the middle of the night to drive a critically injured or critically ill person to the hospital, you know that every minute seems like an hour. You pray to God that you will get to that hospital in time to save the life of someone you love very much.

That is what the debate on the floor or the House of Representatives is all about when we talk about the future of Medicare. Because if the Republicans have their way and cut \$282 billion out of Medicare over the next several years to fund a tax break for wealthy Americans, we are going to see hospitals closing in America, particularly in my part of the world in small-town America. It will mean for a lot of people a much longer drive in the middle of the night, many more prayers, and a lot more hope that they will make it in time.

Is this the Republican vision of America which people voted for last November? I don't think so. I hope the Gingrich Republicans will abandon this tax cut program that they have put forward and will instead focus on really strengthening Medicare instead of the cuts that they are proposing which will close hospitals across the United States.

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#### A MODIFIED FLAT TAX PROPOSAL CALLED MCFLAT

(Mr. SOUDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I favor tax cuts for the American families. I believe American families can do more for themselves than the Government.

Mr. Speaker, the American people devote 5.4 billion hours and \$232 billion

every year to comply with the United States Tax Code. Furthermore, billions of dollars are then spent by the IRS to administer and enforce these tax laws. To reform this unwieldy system, our majority leader, Congressman DICK ARMEY has put forward a flat tax proposal that can simplify our system and provide a new contract with the American people.

We have all heard the phrase "you deserve a break today" and now I want to help put those words into action. Today I will be introducing a modified flat tax proposal called McFlat. the "m" stands for mortgage and the "c" stands for charitable. McFlat incorporates the meat of Congressman ARMEY's flat tax along with deductions for mortgage interest and charitable contributions.

McFlat can provide the arches, so to speak, between those that want a simpler and fairer system and those of us who feel that it is essential to retain deductions for homes, churches, and charities. McFlat is the simple and fair way to revolutionize the American Tax Code.

#### THE NEED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN OUTSIDE COUNSEL

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, when is NEWT GINGRICH going to learn that he is not above the rules of this House?

Earlier this year, Mr. GINGRICH announced he would not sign his \$4.5 million book deal until the Ethics Committee approved it. But now he has changed his mind.

Even though the book is still under investigation, not only has Mr. GINGRICH signed the book deal, he has embarked on a Rupert Murdoch-financed book tour to hawk his book.

At a time when the American taxpayers will be paying his salary, Mr. GINGRICH is going to be on the road promoting a book that will make him a multimillionaire.

Mr. GINGRICH's lawyers said that since there has been no ruling, they just assumed that no rules have been broken. The Ethics Committee issued a strong rebuke: "You should make no such assumption."

Mr. Speaker, no Member of this House is above the rules, not even the Speaker.

The only way we are going to get to the bottom of this case is to appoint an outside counsel to investigate.

#### THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN AUTO DISPUTE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with this picture? Regardless of the yen-dollar exchange rate, United States market share of the Japanese